Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 05 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 06 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 05 Jan 2023 at 02:52

Confidence: High for the general theme of low pressure systems and fronts moving east or northeast across the British Isles, but Medium to Low for details, especially in relation to timings and rainfall amounts.

Headline for Thursday 05 Jan 2023: Some brightness in morning, but mostly cloudy with patchy rain and overcast with spells of rain and drizzle through the afternoon and winds increasing.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 05 Jan 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG		FOG			
Fog	Cloudy	Fog	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
20%	20%	40%	60%	80%	>95%

Forecast for Thursday 05 Jan 2023

Weather: A generally cloudy day, with patchy rain or drizzle, though some bright interludes in the morning. Thicker cloud in the afternoon will bring more persistent and occasionally heavier outbreaks of rain.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20-40% in morning with best chance in east, but almost nil by the afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly good visibility at lower elevation at first, but becoming moderate occasionally poor in rain and drizzle. Very poor within cloud, generally extensive over western fells, more broken in the east in morning, bases generally 600-800m at first, though patches 250m at first and widespread 400-500m in the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 05 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	24/28 SW	25/30 SW	36/44 S	46/58 SW	49/61 SW	34/44 SW	36/47 SW
600	19/23 SW	22/28 SW	29/40 S	37/51 SW	38/52 SW	27/38 SW	30/42 SW
300	6/20 W	7/21 SW	9/29 S	14/38 SW	13/39 SW	11/31 SW	13/34 SW
Valley	4/17 W	5/17 S	10/28 S	14/35 SW	15/37 SW	12/28 SW	14/31 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-3	4/-2	5/-2	5/-2	5/-2	2/-5	1/-7
600	5/-0	6/0	6/1	7/0	7/0	4/-2	3/-3
300	6/4	7/4	7/5	8/5	8/5	6/3	6/2
Valley	8/7	8/7	9/6	10/7	9/6	8/6	8/5
Freezing Level*	1300m	1800m	1700m	1900m	1900m	1100m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Generally mild, but some chill effect at height with winds increasing and outbreaks of rain. Some movement difficulties with wind buffeting at height but also wet and soggy underfoot at most elevations.

Forecast for Friday 06 Jan 2023

Weather: Rain clearing overnight with clear spells developing, but any patchy mist or fog limited to sheltered valleys. Then mainly dry and bright with sunny spells as mist and fog clears, but mostly cloudy by the afternoon with scattered showers developing especially onto western fells. Cloud will thicken in evening to bring outbreaks of rain.

Maximum wind: Southwest 10-15mph, increasing 20-25 gusts 35mph by the afternoon, but becoming southerly 30-40 gust 50mph in evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70%, becoming 40% in afternoon, but almost no chance after dark.

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly good visibility at lower elevations, but patchy early mist and fog and occasional reductions in showers, then moderate or poor in rain later. Very poor at height in cloud, increasingly so through the day. Generally scattered to broken 600-900m in morning but more extensive in afternoon and down to 500m at times, then widespread 400-500m in evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 or 6 C rising to plus 10 C
At 800m: Falling to plus 1 C in early hours then rising to plus 3 or 4 C
Freezing level: Lowering briefly to 900m in early hours, then rising above the tops.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 4 January 2023. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:50. Full report: There has been a turbo thaw over the past 24 hours with most, if not all, of Monday night/Tuesday morning's snow having melted along with some older accumulations. The vast majority of the Lakeland fells and paths are now clear from snow and ice. The snow that remains lies above 750m in sheltered spots and hollows and particularly above 850m on steep north and east facing aspects. The only unavoidable snow encountered today was a steep bank on Swirral Edge's exit. Despite the rain, the snow was firm so, although only a short section, an ice axe is recommended for anyone tackling this route as it is not a place to slip. Conversely, Striding Edge now has a snow free route. Owing to the, almost constant, rain and turbo thaw, water courses were in full spate making any, normally easy, stream crossings without bridges far more problematic. There are still some cornices above steep N and E facing aspects – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. Although they have significantly reduced in size they now consist of wet snow so are extremely unstable; therefore please keep off any such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was minus 4 degrees C at midday, so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility such as low cloud are all essential to safely enjoy the fells, as was a sense of humour today when faced with the horizontal rain on the summit! If this weather continues, it could be a time to leave the high fells and head for the Lake District's dramatic waterfalls which are definitely worth seeing at the moment!! Temperature: plus 3.7 C, Maximum wind speed 41.4 mph, Wind chill: minus 4.4 C, Average wind speed: 29.0 mph.

Issued at: 02:52 on Thu 05 Jan 2023

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